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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SECRET/SENSITIVE

October 21, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

BRENT SCOWCROFT

Following is report of Secretary Kissinger's meeting with Chairman Mao:

"I met with Chairman Mao for one and a half hours starting at 1830 Tuesday on the usual short notice. He sent his personal greetings to you and looks forward to your visit. As in all previous conversations the dominant topic was the international situation, particularly the Soviet Union.

"The discussion was friendly and wide-ranging, as the Chinese Communique says, but frankly it was also disturbing. I think it best to give you a firsthand rundown and appraisal upon my return, but in essence the Chairman stressed the themes that Vice Premier Teng presented on Monday as I reported them to you, only with more pungent emphasis. Clearly he sees our domestic problems as emasculating our staying power in the world, thinks we are floundering largely as a result of domestic weaknesses, and believes China must rely on itself. He sees Europe as being particularly soft and Japan as potentially aggressive. Once again he was very relaxed about Taiwan, spending only a few sentences on an issue he labelled as clearly subsidiary to the global situation. He said that the PRC could wait for some time to solve the problem, while suggesting that forceful means would probably be required.

"I spent an hour with Teng before the Mao meeting during which he invited my views on the southern flank of NATO. This is of concern to them, and their analysis and preferences are very close to ours. We had passed the morning strolling around the Fragrant Hills, which are outside of Peking, tinged with autumn red and dotted with temples. Teng hosted a cordial and sumptuous lunch.

"I meet again with Teng Wednesday afternoon at which time we should get their reaction to our draft Communique for your trip."

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